United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.36

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 March 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 resumed session
18-27 May 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-27956 (E) 130409

1. Institute of Social Studies Trust (Special; 1996)

Part I: Introduction

i. The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) is a non profit non governmental organization dedicated to conducting research and action programmes seeking to promote social justice and equity for the underprivileged with a focus on women. The main research area is on women's work in the informal economy and well being concerns. Research is carried out in collaboration with grass root NGOs and researchers in India as well as outside. The Institute receives funding for its work from multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, Indian Foundations as well as the government. In addition to research studies the Institute has a community outreach programme in Delhi which reaches out to women and youth from low income slum households and seeks to empower them through a variety of innovative and interactive activities as well as assistance in accessing entitlements to health, education and subsidized food grains.

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. i) Participation in conferences and United Nations meetings

Promoting Gender Equality in Education: ISST helped to document good practices in reaching basic literacy and education to the most excluded groups in Rajasthan. Representatives attended a seminar on Lessons of Promising Practices and Implications for scaling up girls education organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Commonwealth Secretariat, 20-22 September, Chandigarh, 2004. This was an excellent platform for a sharing of approaches and good practices and ISST used the theoretical framework in its subsequent work on girls' education.

Promoting Women's Empowerment: This is the central objective of ISST's work. Representatives attended the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 28 February – 11 March, United Nations headquarters, New York, 2005. One session was jointly organized by ISST and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Reflections on Women's Progress – Keeping our Gains, Accelerating Change, on 8 March. The reflections at this session and at other sessions have been used by ISST in developing its subsequent work agenda and in writing for UNIFEM South Asia the report on Progress of Women in South Asia 2005 and 2007.

Social Protection: ISST worked in the areas of social protection and women's work and contributed to United Nations debates and programme formulation by sharing field insights. Research into good practices in social protection and local development in India led to attendance at World Conference on Social Protection and Inclusion: Converging Efforts from a Global Perspective, organized by International Labour Organization (ILO), European Commission and Government of Portugal, 2-3 October, Lisbon. This area of work continues to be actively researched into through studies of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Representative participated in United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing Social Services Policies to Strengthen Family Well Being in Asia and the Pacific organized by the Emerging Social Issues Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), 17-19 October, Bangkok and made a presentation on Social Protection for Home Based Workers based on ISST research.

Resource Centre: ISST is a resource centre open to all, and participation at other United Nations events contributes to building up our resources which are further shared with those visiting the organization. In 2006, representatives attended the speech by Mukhtar Mai at the United Nations, New York, 2 May; 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, titled Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development, 6-8 September, New York; European Premiere of Human Rights Short Films, 19 September, Geneva; Fourth Assembly for Human Rights organized by the Canton of Geneva, Geneva, 9 October; Panel discussion on Empowerment of Women: access to assets, inheritance law, housing and land rights and basic services, at International Forum on the Eradication of Poverty held in New York to mark the culmination of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, organized jointly UNIFEM, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), 15-16 November; International Conference for the Reform of International Institutions: Dialogues between different levels of governance and civil society actors, organized by World Forum of Civil Society Networks and ITUC-CSI-IGB, 20-21 November.

ii) Co-operation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field

The ISST carried out two studies, one on Women in Leadership Positions and another on strategic needs of Women in Hill States for UNDP, New Delhi in 2004, to contribute to engendering policy making in India. The Institute prepared two policy briefs on inclusive development and gender, and on engendering the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, for the use of UNDP officers, in 2007.

In 2005, and in 2007, the Institute prepared for the UNIFEM a report on the Progress of Women in South Asia, a comprehensive analytical report mapping the situation and status of women on the twelve critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. These reports were background documents for the Fifth and Sixth South Asia Ministerial Meeting Commemorating Beijing held in Islamabad (3-5 May 2005) and New Delhi (17-19 January 2008). Representatives contributed to UNIFEM's efforts to facilitate the setting up of a SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Gender Data Base, an online resource, to be housed in the SAARC Secretariat. The Institute has carried out studies of home based women workers in three states in India to support the work of UNIFEM in strengthening the research base and policy advocacy for this group of women workers and on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in partnership with the ILO over the period 2005-2007. These studies seek to provide the Government of India with authentic and timely reports on implementation of this flagship programme.

Other studies carried out at ISST have contributed to better understanding of issues of women's work in the informal economy, migration, urbanization and social protection. Through these studies and research findings the Institute was able to participate in policy dialogue with the government, other NGOs and activists as well as the agencies of the United Nations. Among the important studies carried out over this period were a set of studies investigating the impact of economic reforms from a gender perspective, the Gender Network, a research programme supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada. Studies were conducted in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. A study on public accountability and community action in Delhi also supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada has given significant insights into prevalent practices and reasons for the limited access of poor and slum households to basic water and sanitation facilities in this urban context. The study helped the organization to appreciate that its own best role would be to continue organizing and informing adolescents and women to enable them to address difficulties as they arise and determine the best solutions themselves. From studies of social protection for informal workers with particular focus on home based women workers in peri urban contexts has emerged the key finding that developing sustainable social protection programmes and solutions is possible only within an appropriate development trajectory.

iii) Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The community outreach programme of the Institute of Social Studies Trust in East Delhi contributed to Goal 1: to Eradicate extreme poverty and Hunger through nutrition training, enhancing access to subsidized rations by slum households, and providing nutritional snacks to children; Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education by assisting children to get admission into schools, and encouraging drop outs to return to school by providing educational support and counselling; Goal 3: Achieving Gender Equality by encouraging girls to enter school and by giving them access to free computer training. Around one thousand slum households have been helped in accessing public services. Approximately six hundred boys and 400 girls have been participants in the various programmes for which the total outlay over four years has been around USD 75,000.

ii. Activities in support of global principles

ISST has supported United Nations global principles of gender equality through research and documentation that seeks to provide both data and qualitative insights to enable appropriate and sensitive policy actions. The focus of the research undertaken is women's work and well being. In the Indian context this required understanding of the informal economy and home based work. Specific activities organized by ISST over this period have included three seminars in Bangalore and eight in Delhi on aspects of women's work and well being concerns (home based workers, public accountability, social protection, coastal communities, programme evaluations) with a view to enhancing the quality of public debate on these issues.

2. Peace Education Foundation (Special; 1996)

Part I. Introduction

The mission of the Peace Education Foundation (PEF) is to educate children and adults in the dynamics of conflict and promote skills of peacemaking in homes, schools, communities, the nation and the world. PEF believes that conflict is a natural, unavoidable phenomenon that can be a constructive opportunity for positive change and empowerment. PEF believes in teaching children the skills they need to find creative and constructive ways to settle conflicts. PEF works with teachers and other adults so that they understand the importance of modelling this behaviour for children to learn. PEF believes that children learn best in a caring environment where their self-esteem is nurtured as they are challenged to become responsible decision-makers.

PEF believes that peace education encourages the emotional, intellectual, ethical and social growth of children within a framework of traditional values such as honesty, justice and responsibility. PEF's hope is that as children become adults and leaders they will implement these concepts as a part of their everyday being, so that conflicts whether at an individual level or a country level are dealt with non-violently. The Peace Education Foundation achieves these aims through the development and publishing of curricula. PEF trains teachers, youth group leaders, community leaders and professionals working with children in conflict resolution, violence prevention and mediation. PEF's curricular materials are concrete tools for teaching and youth professionals to teach and model the essentials of conflict resolution which are: community building, understanding conflict, understanding the role of perception in a conflict, problem solving and decision making, the role of emotions and anger, and effective communication. Some of the life skills taught are respect, cooperation, empathy, coping skills, perspective taking, anger management, escalating factors, de-escalating skills, listening, I-statements, tolerance, diversity, and multicultural issues.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Peace Education Foundation participated in the work of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council primarily in the field, working in numerous countries. The organization does not have a permanent representative in New York or other United Nations headquarters locations, so participation at United Nations' meetings is limited. The Peace Education Foundation focused its activities on the implementation of its violence prevention and peace education program in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. The work of the United Nations and the organization's role as an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was prominently highlighted. When working internationally efforts are made to meet with representatives of United Nations subsidiary bodies.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Representatives from the Peace Education Foundation met with representatives of the United Nations Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) in Lima, Peru. Exchange of materials and methodologies were discussed specific to peace education and violence prevention efforts in areas where landmines are present. Talks for further collaboration were held but financial issues have impeded development.

PEF worked towards publicizing UNICEF's - United Nations Children's Fund's State of the World's Children Reports during this report period. PEF is supportive of the United Nations Association at its headquarters in Miami, Florida, United States of America.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Peace Education Foundation's work contributed primarily to Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals to achieve universal primary education. The work conducted was aligned with several of the six goals of UNESCO's "Education for All" which were determined in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. "Education for All" identified six key measurable education goals designed to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults. PEF's work encompasses Goal 1: Expand early childhood care and education, Goal 3: Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults, and Goal 6: Improve the quality of education.

Geographically the work during this Quadrennial Report period took place in Central America, South America and the Caribbean as well as in North America where the Organization is based. PEF's international workshops and materials distribution took place in Argentina, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. Activities took place in both the capitals and in provincial cities. Schools or community organizations reached during the reporting period in said countries: 357. Teachers reached: 1897. Estimated students reached through their teachers: 56, 910 (30 students per teacher). Additionally, work is designed with a train-the-trainer component, so the multiplier effect is significant. At a recent follow-up workshop in Tucuman, Argentina just one workshop participant quantified her reach at 2500 individuals.

In addition to the above four countries where systematic implementation took place during this Quadrennial Period, the PEF continues work in Colombia, Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Canada as well as the United States. The PEF also started to plan systematic implementation in Peru and Chile during this period.

The Peace Education Foundation continues to work in other hemispheres, but still to a much lesser extent. We continue to collaborate with the Centre for Conflict Resolution in South Africa. Representatives visited with two children's conflict resolution centers in Northern Ireland. The Ministry of Education in the Kurdish part of Iraq requested permission to translate "Peacemaking

Skills for Little Kids". They saw this program as critical for transforming their children's present "culture of war" into a "culture of peace" for the next generation.

- **Activities in Support of Global Principles**

The United Nations International Day of Peace was observed by the Organization each 21 September. Schools and teachers we work with were encouraged to have special events on that date. These events ranged from peace rallies to peace parades.

3. People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (Special; 2004)

PART I: Introduction

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) is a civil organization dedicated to promoting justice and human rights in Korean society through the participation of the people. PSPD has been serving as a watchdog against the abuse of power. It has developed various activities to bring justice and democracy to many areas in our society: the PSPD evokes public awareness through campaigns, questioning social and political activities, filing administrative and public litigations, and petitioning legislation. PSPD has developed and coordinated a wide range of activities to bring about a systematic reform and to suggest counterproposals to various government policies and agendas. In this process, the PSPD has regarded independence and consistency as the most important principles of being a watchdog of power. Regard to PSPD's participation in United Nations activities, PSPD seek to look for ways to bring peace on the Korean Peninsula. PSPD aims to solidify the citizen's movement for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, and intensify our international solidarity activities to promote the growth of democracy and human rights in Asia. In addition, PSPD is also deeply committed in monitoring the activities of the Republic of Korea's ODA (Official Development Assistance) for neighboring Asian countries.

PART II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The PSPD delivered opinions of civil society of Republic of Korea to the Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Council in 2005 and 2007. What the main perspective of PSPD is respects the principle of interference of international society regarding to the matter of human rights in Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to consider the right to life of the people in Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a top priority. Additionally, intervention of international society must not threaten peace of the Korean Peninsula and be justifiable and peaceful by the fair subject.

In 2005, the PSPD recommended the Commission on Human Rights to request relevant special rapporteurs to pay special attention to the impact to national security legislation, including the counter-terrorism measures, on the full enjoyment of human rights in Asian countries, particularly Republic of Korea. PSPD also urged the government of Republic of Korea to immediately end the efforts to introduce anti-terrorism legislation. The "Anti-Terrorism Law" bill was not passed.

proposed under the name of "Prevention of Terrorism Act" and introduced on 15 March 2005 by the Grand National Party.

The list of United Nations activities of PSPD for the Period 2004-2007

2005: 61st Session the United Nations Commission on Human Rights 11 February 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. The PSPD submitted NGO written statement for improvement of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The organization's representatives attended the Item 9 of the provisional agenda, related to the improvement of the situation of human rights in Democratic People's Republic of Korea 29 March-1 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. The representatives presented the NGO joint open statement for prevention of violence of human rights of "Anti-Terrorism Law" bill of the government of the Republic of Korea at Item 17, Promotion and protection of human rights.

2007: 4th session of the Human Rights Council 20 March 2007, Geneva, Switzerland. The PSPD submitted the written statement regarding the Report of Vitit Muntarbhorn, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

4. Right to Play (Special; 2004)

PART I. INTRODUCTION

Right To Play is an international humanitarian organization that uses sport and play programs to improve health, develop life skills, and foster peace for children and communities in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world. Working in both the humanitarian and development context, Right To Play trains local community leaders as *Coaches* to deliver our programs in more than 20 countries affected by war, poverty, and disease in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Right To Play programs target the most marginalized including girls, the disabled, children affected by HIV and AIDS, street children, former child combatants, and refugees. Right To Play also acts as a global advocate for the field of Sport for Development.

The organization has grown substantially since the initial application from revenues of $8.0 million in 2003 to $27.6 million in 2007. To support this growth, new fundraising offices were incorporated in Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The organization has established an International Board of Directors and an Executive Team based out of the Headquarters in Toronto, Canada. There have been several minor changes to the organization's bylaws that can be provided upon request. In an effort to support program excellence, enhance sustainability and build more effective relationships with multiple stakeholders, Right To Play increased the capacity of its field operations through 2005 to 2007, which included the set-up of field offices and the hire of professional staff (both national and expatriate) in all countries of operation. Structurally this included the development and establishment of four Regional Offices that are located in Accra, Ghana; Kampala, Uganda; Beirut, Lebanon; and, Bangkok, Thailand. Regional Offices are

directly responsible for leadership within each region with longer term vision for growth and sustainability of programs and to provide direct support to numerous Country Offices within their region. Country Offices have been established in the majority of operational countries and are directly responsible for the implementation of programs with project and community level teams.

PART II. CONTRIBUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION TO THE WORK OF THE UN

i. **Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies: (i) 31 May to 2 June 2006**. Right To Play participated as an accredited civil society organization with a representative (Manager Policy) at the meeting on "Uniting the World Against AIDS" the follow-up meeting on the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS*, at the United Nations in New York, the United States of America; (ii) **8 December 2006.** United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at 60 and the State of the World's Children 2007, New York, United States of America. President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) attended; (iii) **3 August 2005**. United Nations Youth Assembly at United Nations headquarters, New York. President and CEO addressed the assembly with an address entitled "Empowering Individuals and Communities to Create a Safer and Healthier World".

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or Specialized agencies

Right To Play has on-going interaction with United Nations initiatives and offices related to advocacy in the area of Sport for Development and Peace as the Secretariat of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG), and through representation of senior staff in key United Nations meetings and conferences. In particular, during this reporting period: (i) involved in drafting both the 2nd Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 8 December 2004 (A/Res/59/10) and the 3rd Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 January 2006 (A/Res/60/9) on *Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace;* (ii) liaised with the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace to support their advocacy efforts, notably through participation in the *UN International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005* to highlight the vital contribution that sport and physical education can make to the achievement of global development goals; (iii) **31 January to 2 February, 2005**. Participated with a representative (Director Program Development and Research) at the *Monitoring and Evaluation of Sports-Based Programming Workshop*, at UNICEF Headquarters in New York; (iv) served as the Secretariat of the SDP IWG, a policy initiative to engage national governments, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations in the development or recommendations to national governments on how to use sport to obtain development and peace objectives. In the inaugural meeting in 24 May 2005, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assumed the role of Chair. The following are the highlights of the SDP IWG for the reporting period: (a) **Meetings**: 24 May 2005, official launch at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America; 10 March 2006 meeting was held in Torino, Italy; and 3-4 December 2007 meeting held in Accra, Ghana. Participants included representatives from United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Human Settlements

Programme, and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (b) **Reports:** August 2005, publication and dissemination of a report from the inaugural meeting entitled, *Sport for Development and Peace: International Working Group Meeting Report*; and June 2006, release of the preliminary report, *Sport for Development and Peace: From Policy to Practice*, which included information from interviews with representatives from 13 governments (with emphasis on their approach to the Millennium Development Goals and sport for development and peace); and consultations with several United Nations agencies and civil society organizations; (v) cooperated with United Nations agencies across the organization, from Right To Play Headquarters based in Toronto, Canada, to Right To Play National Offices in Europe, and to the Right To Play Field Offices. This cooperation can be categorized as follows: (a) **Partnership.** Right To Play has global agreements with UNHCR (2000; revised 2003 and 2008), with UNICEF, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (2003), and with United Nations Development Programme in support of the SDP IWG (2005). In addition, in 2007, Right To Play and UNICEF United Kingdom entered into a specific Memorandum of Understanding to support the implementation of sport and play activities related to "International Inspiration" a five year program that promises to build on the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games and provide sport and play to twelve million children in 20 countries by 2012. In 2007 Right To Play and UNICEF Norway entered into an agreement based on the National Telethon to raise funds for children affected by HIV/AIDS; (b) **Operational Support.** Right To Play has received support instrumental in the start-up and expansion of programs from UNHCR, for example in Chad, Liberia, Azerbaijan, Thailand; and from United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for Palestine, Jordan; and Lebanon; (c) **Funding Support.** During the reporting period Right To Play received funding from a number of United Nations agencies, notably: UNHCR's ninemillion.org initiative for USD 180,000 received in 2006 and 2007 for project activities in Azerbaijan, Liberia, Thailand and Uganda; UNICEF for in excess of USD 1.0 million in 2006 & 2007 to support Right To Play's Tsunami interventions in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and project activities in the Ethiopia, Lebanon, Rwanda, the Sudan, Uganda and Zambia; and UNDP for USD 36,000 to support the operations of three United Nations volunteers to engage in Right To Play activities.

(iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals. Major actions undertaken were the following:

f. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Right To Play contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the geographic areas of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Major actions undertaken were related to the following: (i) ***Goal 2*** - *Achieving universal primary education,* ***target 3****: ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.* ACTIONS: Sport and play curriculum delivered in approximately 1,350 schools, with hundreds of teachers trained (many of whom report pupils are more alert in class and attendance is higher, with more children wanting to register in a school that offers Right To Play activities); (ii) ***Goal 3*** - *Promote gender equity and empower women,* ***target 4****: eliminate the gender disparity in primary and secondary education.* ACTIONS: Approximately 45% of children reached were girls, including those reached in schools;

(iii) ***Goal 6*** *- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases,* ***target*** *7: have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS.*

ACTIONS: Right To Play delivered HIV and AIDS education and awareness training in approximately 14 countries through *Live Safe Play Safe*, a sport-based curriculum designed to protect the sexual and reproductive health of children and youth, reduce their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, and promote general health.

ii. **Activities in Support of Global Principles (i.e. celebrate World AIDS day)**

Right To Play programs and activities support various United Nations Declarations and Conventions, namely the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *Millennium Declaration*, and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. On a quarterly basis, in project locations around the world, Right To Play celebrates International Women's Day, International Day of the African Child, World Refugee Day, International Day of Peace and World AIDS Day.

5. Turtle Island Restoration Network (Special; 2004)

Part I: Introduction

Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN) is an international non-profit ocean advocacy and conservation organization based in West Marin County north of San Francisco, California, United States of America, with field offices in the Gulf of Mexico (Houston, Texas, United States); San Jose, Costa Rica; and Port Moresby, Papa New Guinea. It currently has three main projects: Sea Turtle Restoration Project, GotMercury.org and Salmon Protection and Watershed Network. It was founded in the late 1980s with its first success closing a sea turtle slaughterhouse in Mexico. Since then TIRN's work has expanded from endangered sea turtle protection to other high priority ocean and endangered species issues, such as salmon, sea otters, Hawaiian monk seals, and other marine mammals as well as advocating for sustainable fisheries solutions.

TIRN's mission is to take swift and decisive action to protect and restore marine species and their habitats and to inspire people in communities all over the world to join us as active and vocal marine species advocates. TIRN uses strategic combinations of grassroots education and action, hands-on conservation, litigation, active use of the media, and policy reform to achieve our goals of protecting the environment and endangered species. TIRN is a 501 C3 non-profit environmental organization.

Since 2004, TIRN has expanded its international work to Papua New Guinea where a Western Pacific Campaigner began working in 2006 with communities on the North Coast of Madang Province to establish protected areas for leatherback nesting beaches and adjacent marine waters.

The program has also extended to protect marine biodiversity from a new threat in the region: deep-sea ocean mining. The campaign is outreaching to communities, government and industry to understand, prevent and reduce threats from seabed mining and to develop proposals for international standards. These changes have not affected the organization's mission, purpose or methods, but simply expanded its programs to another region of the world – one that connects the life cycle of the endangered leatherback sea turtle from its nesting beaches in Papua New Guinea to its foraging habitat along the West Coast of North America.

Part II: Contribution to the work of the United Nations

1) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and/or major conferences and other meetings

TIRN has focused on oceans and seas issues at the United Nations through its Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council and the consultative process on the Law of the Sea. TIRN has participated in Law of the Sea consultations in New York City and submitted papers and proposals to the United Nations for protecting endangered sea turtles, marine biodiversity and fisheries. During the period 2004 – 2007 TIRN and its project Sea Turtle Restoration Project have engaged in a number of activities directly related to or supporting its engagement at the United Nations including:

2007: (i) During the eighth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) at United Nations headquarters New York from 25-29 June, TIRN's Sea Turtle Restoration Project delegation presented recent developments in the South-East Asia region regarding new genetic information on the area's sea turtles gathered from stock assessment studies and explained the significance of protecting declining and endangered populations of sea turtles through the establishment of a "biological corridor" in the Pacific Ocean to protect leatherback turtles. We put forward a proposal for a new Pacific-wide network of marine protected areas including a Leatherback Biological Corridor; (ii) On 20 August, TIRN published a new report highlighting the impacts that climate change will have on endangered sea turtles. The report, entitled Boiling Point: The Impact of Climate Change on Sea Turtles and the Urgent Need to Take Action, compiles emerging research on the impacts of temperature change and sea level rise and their impacts on sea turtles. Sea turtles are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they nest on beaches likely to be flooded by rising sea levels, and the gender of a turtle is dependent on temperature. Boiling Point argues that the increased threat from climate change further emphasizes the need to more rapidly reduce the mortality of sea turtles from other human activities, especially long line, gillnet and shrimp fishing.

2006: (i) At the Seventh meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea 12-16 June at United Nations headquarters New York, TIRN's Sea Turtle Restoration Project presented a plan of action to the United Nations regarding the protection and restoration of the leatherback sea turtle against long line fishing, which included: action by United Nations delegates to include language that will require the immediate

cessation of long line fishing in areas known to be migratory paths of the leatherback in the Pacific to their resolutions, measures to be taken to find solutions to the problem through a comprehensive ecosystem-based management plan that addresses high seas long line fishing, use of permanent and temporal closures of critical areas of the high seas from long line fishing, and creation of high seas marine protected areas to provide a haven for sea turtles and other species that are threatened by destructive fishing practices; (ii) TIRN attended the United Nation's Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction from 13-17 February at United Nations headquarters New York. TIRN presented recent scientific information on the Pacific leatherback sea turtle and called for a moratorium of long line fishing in the Pacific Ocean.

2005: (i) TIRN publishes new report documenting the damage to the Pacific Ocean from investments in destructive long line fishing before the World Bank's annual meeting titled: Bankrupting the Pacific: How Multilateral Development Banks are Contributing to Over fishing and Helping Push Sea Turtles and Seabirds to the Brink of Extinction in the Pacific. It shows how the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, and Asian Development Bank poured millions of dollars into destructive long line fishing in the Pacific. These investments were made in critical nesting and migratory habitats of critically endangered sea turtles and seabirds without any assessment of the impact on biodiversity of the regions where the projects took place and in direct violation of their own environmental and fisheries policies; (ii) At the Sixth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea from 6-10 June, United Nations headquarters New York, to discuss actions to protect the world's oceans from over fishing, TIRN delivered to the United Nations a letter signed by more than 1,000 international scientists from 97 countries calling for a moratorium on long line fishing in the Pacific Ocean to prevent the extinction of the critically endangered leatherback sea turtle. The scientists were joined by 281 non-governmental organizations from 62 countries. The list of signers includes famed primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, biologist E.O. Wilson, and oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle, a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. Moreover TIRN urged action on new proposed guidelines issued by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recommending that fisheries posing the greatest threats to endangered leatherback sea turtles be subjected to "temporary and spatially-limited controls." TIRN asked the urging (FAO) to identify and take action on some of the hot spots of turtle-fishing interaction; (iii) TIRN welcomed new findings from the United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis that describes capture fisheries as "unsustainable" and calls for the expansion in Marine Protected Areas with flexible no-take zones that contribute to the economy. These conclusions echo the efforts of 3 nations, more than 800 scientists from 83 countries and 230 non-governmental organizations from 54 countries who joined with TIRN in calling on the United Nations to implement a moratorium on industrial long line fishing in the Pacific and implement a network of high seas Marine Protected Areas to protect both fish stocks and species endangered by long lines.

ii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: During this four-year period, TIRN engaged in a number of international and United States-based campaigns that have resulted in increased protections of endangered sea turtles, fisheries, human health and the environment. Major actions undertaken were the following: (i) Successfully prevented the creation of a new long line fishery in California's Exclusive Economic Zone on 10 August 2007; (ii) Prevented the reopening of drift gillnet fishing in the Leatherback Conservation Area off the United States West Coast for the 2006 season; (iii) Lead the effort to reduce consumption of mercury contaminated fish (tuna, swordfish and shark) captured primarily by industrial fishing methods, including by convincing major grocery chains to post mercury-in-seafood signs nationwide and catalyzing the California Attorney General to compel health warning labelling on swordfish and mercury at all state supermarkets; (iv) Forced a four-year closure of the Hawaiian long line swordfish fishery and time-area closures on the Hawaiian long line tuna fishery in order to prevent the extinction of the eastern Pacific leatherback sea turtle; (v) Authored and publicized two letters (one from 281 non-governmental organizations from 62 countries and the other from 1007 scientists from 97 countries) urging the United Nations to champion a resolution calling for a moratorium on high seas long lining and gillnetting in the Pacific; (vi) Advised and collaborated with our sister organization in Costa Rica to pressure Costa Rica, a leader in environmental protection in the Central American region, to increase enforcement and prosecution of pirate fishers.

6. Women's Cultural and Social Society (Special; 2004)

PART I: Introduction

The Women's Cultural & Social Society (WCSS) is the first women's society to be established in Kuwait. It was founded in 1963 by a group of Kuwaiti women who were among the first to graduate from universities and higher education institutes. The Society's main objective is to develop women in all fields, encourage their participation in community activities, and increase their awareness of their civil and political rights and duties to ensure their effective contribution to such issues.

Since one of the primary objectives of WCSS was the enfranchisement of Kuwaiti women, significant portion of its activities since inception centered on the revision of election laws to be consistent with the Constitution. This was finally was achieved in 2005, and the election laws were amended to grant women full political rights. As a result, the activities and committees dedicated to that purpose, including the Woman Voice Committee, were disbanded. WCSS is non-parliamentary member of the Woman Affairs Committee, one of the standing committees of Kuwait Parliament. WCSS is neutral in Kuwaiti politics, and seeks to advance human rights in general, and women and family rights in particular.

PART II: Contribution of WCSS to the work of the United Nations

1) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

WCSS participated in the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women 28-11 March, 2005 at the United Nations headquarters, New York. WCSS presented a report about Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in Kuwait to a UNDP sponsored meeting of Women Rights Organizations against AIDS in the Arab Region, Tunisia, 26-28 July 2005. A Representative attended the General Assembly informal debate on "The Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women" on 7 March 2007.

2) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

WCSS is an affiliate of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Arab states Regional Office. It joined Enhancing Arab Women Parliamentarians Program (AWPP) in 2005 and participated by holding different workshops, round table discussions regarding political rights and civil rights in Family Law. A study on "Women in the Political Arena and Indications of their Success Therein - The Case of Kuwait" was conducted as an outcome of the (AWPP). Furthermore the society lunched an awareness campaign in 2006 to encourage Kuwaiti women to participate in the parliamentary elections.

In 2006 WCSS singed a Memorandum of understanding with Freedom House in partnership with the United Nation Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) supported by Middle East Partnership Invitation to work together on the Women's Right and Family Law Study Program in the Gulf region. The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Bahrain were selected as study cases under the title of "Women's Right in the Kuwait personal Status Law and the Bahraini Shari'a Judicial Rulings".

3) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Target 1**: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day. Action: (i) 3502 Families received monthly assistance; (ii) 2592 Families received onetime assistance.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: Target 1: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Action: Help is provided to families either as monthly or one time assistance.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: The focus of WCSS is the empowerment of women. Workshops, in cooperation with UNIFEM and Freedom House, have been conducted yearly since 2005, in addition to two regional conferences regarding the status of women under the law.

Special Problems and Conditions: WCSS, like many NGOs in Kuwait have suffered from the restriction imposed on charitable work overseas because of the War on Terror. The direct channelling of help and aid, necessary in time calamity and natural disaster is no longer possible. Designated aid channels in the country have dried up auxiliary resources normally available to supplement traditional aid organizations.